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**INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR
PHYTOSANITARY MEASURES**

PEST REPORTING



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INTRODUCTION

SCOPE

This standard describes the responsibilities of and requirements for contracting parties in reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests, and in making other reports regarding pest status.

REFERENCES

Glossary of phytosanitary terms, 1999. ISPM Pub. No. 5, FAO, Rome.
Guidelines for surveillance, 1998. ISPM Pub. No. 6, FAO, Rome.
International Plant Protection Convention, 1992. FAO, Rome.
New Revised Text of the International Plant Protection Convention, 1997. FAO, Rome.
Requirements for the establishment of pest free areas, 1996. ISPM Pub. No. 4, FAO, Rome.
Determination of Pest Status in an Area, 1998. ISPM Pub. No. 8, FAO, Rome.
Pest Risk Analysis for Quarantine Pests, in preparation. FAO, Rome.

DEFINITIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

Occurrence	The presence in an area of a pest officially reported to be indigenous or introduced and/or not officially reported to have been eradicated [FAO, 1990; revised FAO, 1995; formerly Occur]
Outbreak	An isolated pest population, recently detected and expected to survive for the immediate future [FAO, 1995]
Pest status (in an area)	Presence or absence, at the present time, of a pest in an area , including where appropriate its distribution, as officially determined using expert judgement on the basis of current and historical pest records and other information [CEPM, 1997; revised ICPM, 1998]
Spread	Expansion of the geographical distribution of a pest within an area [FAO, 1995]
Surveillance	An official process which collects and records data on pest occurrence or absence by survey , monitoring or other procedures [CEPM, 1996]
Survey	An official procedure conducted over a defined period of time to determine the characteristics of a pest population or to determine which species occur in an area [FAO, 1990; revised CEPM, 1996]

[NB It is assumed that "Outbreak" is used with the English Glossary meaning. The fact that it is translated into French as "Apparition" in the IPPC is an anomaly which should be considered by the Glossary group. In any case, the Glossary group should reconsider the English definition (since the term is used with a different meaning under "Initiation of a report"), and also that of "Occurrence" which refers to "officially reported", creating a circular definition. New wording like "official position regarding presence", or "officially considered to be present" should be discussed.]

OUTLINE OF REQUIREMENTS

To be added later.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Background

(NB Specific references to IPPC to be added)

The IPPC, in relation to its main purpose of "securing common and effective action to prevent the spread and introduction of pests of plants and plant products", requires countries "to make provision, to the best of their ability, for an official National Plant Protection Organization", whose responsibilities include in particular:

"the surveillance of growing plants, including both areas under cultivation (*inter alia* fields, plantations, nurseries, gardens, greenhouses and laboratories) and wild flora, and of plants and plant products in storage or in transportation, particularly with the object of reporting the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests, and of controlling those pests, including the reporting referred to under Article VIII paragraph 1(a)"

Countries are responsible for "the distribution of information within their territory regarding regulated pests", and they are required, "to the best of their ability, to conduct surveillance for pests and develop and maintain adequate information on pest status in order to support categorization of pests, and for the development of appropriate phytosanitary measures". They are required "to designate a contact point for the exchange of information connected with the implementation" of the IPPC.

With these systems in operation, countries are able to fulfil the requirement under the IPPC:

"to cooperate with one another to the fullest practicable extent in achieving the aims of this Convention", and in particular to "cooperate in the exchange of information on plant pests, particularly the reporting of the occurrence, outbreak or spread of pests that may be of immediate or potential danger, in accordance with such procedures as may be established by the Commission".

This Standard provides guidance to countries on how to provide pest reports as provided for under the above-quoted articles of the IPPC.

[NB The Standard supposes that the procedures for "exchange of this information", as referred to in the IPPC, will be established separately by the Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures.]

2. Purpose of pest reporting

Pest reporting enables countries to adjust their phytosanitary requirements and actions to take account of changes in risk and provides useful current and historical information for operation of phytosanitary systems. Accurate information on pest status facilitates technical justification of measures and helps to minimize interference with trade. Every country needs pest reports for these purposes, and can only obtain them by the cooperation of other countries.

The provision of reliable and timely pest reports confirms the operation of effective surveillance and reporting systems within countries and increases the credibility of NPPOs. The operation of effective surveillance and reporting systems within countries helps them to be more effective in the use of their own resources for risk management.

Countries should adjust their phytosanitary requirements rapidly in reaction to updating or correction of pest reports.

3. National responsibilities

Countries should have in place systems to ensure the collection, verification and analysis of domestic pest reports.

3.1 Surveillance

Pest reporting depends on the establishment within countries of national systems for surveillance, as required by the IPPC (see above). Information for pest reporting may be derived from either of the two types of pest surveillance systems defined in ISPM No. 6: general surveillance or specific surveys. Systems should be put in place to ensure that such information is passed to and collected by the NPPO. The surveillance and collection systems should operate on an ongoing and timely basis. Surveillance should be conducted in accordance with ISPM No. 6.

3.2 Sources of information

Information for pest reporting may be obtained directly by the NPPO or may be available from a variety of other sources (research institutions and journals, growers and their journals, etc). General surveillance by the NPPO includes the review of information from other sources. This may be information brought to the attention of NPPOs by other countries.

3.3 Verification and analysis

NPPOs should put in place systems for verification of domestic pest reports from official and other sources (including those brought to their attention by other countries), by confirming the identification of the pest concerned and making a preliminary determination of its geographical distribution, and thus establishing its "pest status" in the country, according to ISPM No. 8. They should also put in place systems of Pest Risk Analysis (PRA) to determine whether new or unexpected pest situations constitute an immediate or potential danger to the reporting country, requiring phytosanitary action, and to identify, as appropriate, whether the situations which have been reported may be of concern to other countries.

3.4 Motivation for reporting

Where possible, countries should provide incentives for domestic reporting. Growers and others may be officially required to report on new or unexpected pest situations and be encouraged in this by rewards for reporting or penalties for not reporting, and/or compensation for actions that may be taken as a result of reporting.

4. Reporting obligations

The obligation identified under the IPPC is to report the occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests that may be of immediate or potential danger. Countries may optionally make other pest reports. Such reporting satisfies the general recommendation under the IPPC to cooperate in achieving the objectives of the Convention but is not a specific obligation. This Standard considers all cases of pest reporting. This section specifies the pest reporting obligations under the IPPC.

4.1 Immediate of potential danger

An immediate danger is considered to be one that has already been identified (pest already regulated) or is obvious on the basis of observation or previous experience. A potential danger is one that is identified only as the result of a PRA. Both immediate and potential danger to the reporting country normally lead to phytosanitary action.

4.1.1 Danger to the reporting country

The occurrence, outbreak and spread of pests which is of immediate or potential danger to the reporting country may be of immediate or potential danger to other countries. There is an obligation to report it to them.

4.1.2 Danger only to other countries

Countries have an obligation to report occurrence, outbreak or spread of pests which are known, on the basis of information available to them, to be of immediate danger to other countries. This will normally concern only neighbouring countries and trading partners (for relevant pathways).

Countries may also, as appropriate, use the same reporting systems to provide pest reports on other pests, or to other countries, if this contributes usefully to the exchange of information on plant pests foreseen under Article VIII of the IPPC. They may also enter into bilateral or multilateral agreements on pest reporting, e.g. through RPPOs.

4.2 Reporting of changed status or absence

Countries may also report cases where immediate or potential danger has changed or is absent (including in particular pest absence). Where there has been an earlier report indicating immediate or potential danger, and it later appears that the report was incorrect or circumstances change so that the risk changes or disappears, countries should report the change. Countries may also report that all or part of their territory has been categorized as a pest-free area, according to ISPM No. 4, or report a change in the status of a pest according to one of the descriptions in ISPM No 8.

4.3 Reporting of interceptions

Reporting of intercepted pests is covered by the draft ISPM on notification of non-compliance and not by this Standard.

5. Initiation of reports

Pest reports are initiated by the occurrence, outbreak or spread of pests, or any other new or unexpected pest situation.

5.1 Occurrence

Occurrence is reported where a danger is presented by a pest which already occurs, in particular where the pest:

- is known to regulated by neighbouring countries or trading partners (for relevant pathways)
- is regulated or becomes regulated by the reporting country.

5.2 Outbreak

An outbreak concerns a recently detected pest (established or not). It should be reported when its presence corresponds at least to the status of **Transient: actionable** in ISPM No. 8.

The term outbreak also applies to an unexpected situation associated with an established pest, which results in new pathways, or which results in a significant increase in risk to neighbouring countries or trading partners.

5.3 Spread

Spread concerns an established pest which expands its geographical distribution, resulting in a significant increase in risk to the reporting country, or to neighbouring countries or trading partners.

6. Pest reporting

6.1 Content of reports

A pest report should clearly indicate:

- the identity of the pest (at species level or below)
- the date of the report
- host(s) or contaminated articles concerned (as appropriate)

- the status of the pest under ISPM No 8
- the nature of the immediate or potential danger, or other reason for reporting

It may also indicate the phytosanitary measures applied or required, and any other information as indicated for pest records in ISPM No. 8.

[NB The possibility was discussed of standardizing the format of reporting, and in particular proposing a reporting form. This possibility is retained, but the group could not give high priority to the drafting of such a form.]

6.2 Timing of reporting

Official pest reports should be provided without delay. It is recognized that the operation of the national systems for surveillance and reporting (see above), and in particular the processes of verification and analysis, require a certain time, but this should be kept to a minimum.

6.3 Destination of reports

Pest reports which are obligations under the IPPC should be made by at least one of the three following systems:

- direct communication to all countries, through official contact points (mail or e-mail)
- publication on an openly available national Web site (such a Web site may be designated as part of an official contact point)
- other procedures forming part of a global system put in place by the ICPM.

Countries may also address pest reports to RPPOs, to privately contracted reporting systems, through bilaterally agreed reporting systems, or in any other way, according to such arrangements as they choose to make. Whatever reporting system is used, and whatever intermediaries are involved, the NPPO should still retain responsibility for the reports.

6.4 Good reporting practices

In any case, countries should follow the "good reporting practices" set out in ISPM No. 8.

6.5 Confidentiality

National systems for surveillance, domestic reporting, verification and analysis may be confidential. Pest reports should not be confidential.

Countries may have in place requirements regarding confidentiality of certain information, e.g. identity of growers. National requirements should not affect basic reporting obligations (content of reports, timeliness).

Confidentiality in bilateral arrangements should not conflict with basic reporting obligations.

6.6 Language

There are no IPPC obligations in relation to the language used for pest reporting, except where countries request information under Article VII/2j, when one of the 5 official languages of FAO should be used for the reply. Countries are encouraged to provide pest reports in English, in particular for purposes of global electronic reporting.

7. Mechanism of pest reporting

Countries are encouraged to use electronic means of pest reporting to facilitate wide and timely distribution of information. In particular, they are encouraged to use Web sites for communication of information to all countries. For pests of known immediate danger to other countries, direct communication to concerned countries (letter, e-mail) is recommended in addition.

If a Web site is used, precise information on the path for access to pest reports should be made available to other countries, or at least to the IPPC Secretariat.

Publication of pest reports in a non-official scientific journal, or in an Official Journal or Gazette, does not meet the requirements of this Standard.

8. Additional information

On the basis of pest reports, countries may request additional information through official contact points. Under Article VII/2j, this information should be supplied by the reporting country to the best of its ability.

9. Review

NPPOs should undertake periodic review of their pest surveillance and reporting systems to ensure that they are meeting their reporting obligations and to identify possibilities for improving reliability and timeliness. They should make adjustments as appropriate.

10. Documentation

National pest surveillance and reporting systems should be adequately described and documented and this information should be made available to other countries on request (see ISPM 6).